

AMENDMENT

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

a¹ On page 55, in line 29, after "(SEQUENCE ID NO 5)." please insert --Sequence 819141 corresponds to nucleotide positions 66-329 of the consensus sequence.--

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 10, 11, 14, 15, 25, 30, 33, 38, and 39, without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new claims 45-55 as follows:

Sub C₁
a²
10. (Amended) A test kit useful for detecting [BL172] a target polynucleotide in a test sample, said test kit comprising a container containing at least one [BL172] polynucleotide that specifically binds to [having-at-least-50%-identity-with] a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQUENCE ID NO 1, [SEQUENCE ID NO 2, SEQUENCE ID NO 3, SEQUENCE ID NO 4, SEQUENCE ID NO 5,] sequence 819141, and [fragments or] complements thereof.

11. (Amended) A purified polynucleotide [or fragment thereof derived from a BL172 gene, wherein said polynucleotide is capable of selectively hybridizing to the nucleic acid of said BL172 gene] comprising a polynucleotide sequence that specifically binds to [and-has-at-least-50%-identity-with] a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of [(a)] SEQUENCE ID NO 1, [SEQUENCE ID NO 2, SEQUENCE ID NO 4, SEQUENCE ID NO 5, complements thereof, and (b) fragments of SEQUENCE ID NO 1, SEQUENCE ID NO 2, and SEQUENCE ID NO 3] sequence 819141, and complements thereof.

a³ 14. (Amended) The purified polynucleotide of claim 11, wherein said polynucleotide comprises a sequence encoding at least one [BL172] epitope.

Sub C2
A3
cont

15. (Amended) A recombinant expression system comprising a nucleic acid sequence [that includes an open reading frame derived from BL172] operably linked to a control sequence compatible with a desired host, wherein said nucleic acid sequence [has at least 50% identity with a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQUENCE ID NO 1, SEQUENCE ID NO 2, SEQUENCE ID NO 3, SEQUENCE ID NO 4, SEQUENCE ID NO 5, and fragments or complements thereof.] encodes a polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 90% identity to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQUENCE ID NO 17, SEQUENCE ID NO 18, SEQUENCE ID NO 19, SEQUENCE ID NO 20, and amino acid sequences comprising at least about 10 contiguous amino acids derived from any of these sequences.

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25. (Amended) A method for producing a polypeptide comprising at least one [BL172] epitope, said method comprising incubating host cells that have been transfected with an expression vector containing a polynucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence having at least [50%] 90% identity to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQUENCE ID NO 17, SEQUENCE ID NO 18, SEQUENCE ID NO 19, SEQUENCE ID NO 20, and [fragments thereof.] amino acid sequences comprising at least about 10 contiguous amino acids derived from any of these sequences.

A5
Sub C4

30. (Amended) A cell transfected with a nucleic acid sequence encoding at least one [BL172] epitope, wherein said nucleic acid sequence [is selected from the group consisting of SEQUENCE ID NO 1, SEQUENCE ID NO 2, SEQUENCE ID NO 3, SEQUENCE ID NO 4, SEQUENCE ID NO 5, and fragments or complements thereof.] encodes a polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 90% identity to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQUENCE ID NO 17, SEQUENCE ID NO 18, SEQUENCE ID NO 19,

See Cys and 85 cont

SEQUENCE ID NO 20, and amino acid sequences comprising at least about 10 contiguous amino acids derived from any of these sequences.

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33. (Amended) A composition of matter comprising a [BL172] purified polynucleotide [or fragment thereof], wherein said polynucleotide [has at least 50% identity with a polynucleotide] is selected from the group consisting of [(a)] SEQUENCE ID NO 1, SEQUENCE ID NO 2, SEQUENCE ID NO 4, SEQUENCE ID NO 5, sequence 819141, and complements thereof, and (b) fragments of SEQUENCE ID NO 1, SEQUENCE ID NO 2, and SEQUENCE ID NO 3].

A7 sub C2

38. (Amended) A [gene, or fragment thereof,] purified polynucleotide which codes for a [BL172 protein] polypeptide which comprises an amino acid sequence with at least [50%] 90% identity to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQUENCE ID NO 17, SEQUENCE ID NO 18, SEQUENCE ID NO 19, SEQUENCE ID NO 20, and amino acid sequences comprising at least about 10 contiguous amino acids derived from any of these sequences.

A8

39. (Amended) A [gene, or fragment thereof, comprising DNA] purified polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence having at least [50%] 90% identity with a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQUENCE ID NO 1, SEQUENCE ID NO 2, SEQUENCE ID NO 4, [or] SEQUENCE ID NO 5, sequence 819141, and complements thereof.

--45. The purified polynucleotide of claim 38, wherein said polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence presented as SEQUENCE ID NO 17, or an amino acid sequence of at least about 10 contiguous amino acids derived therefrom.

90% to 10 contigs.

46. The purified polynucleotide of claim 38, wherein said polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence presented as SEQUENCE ID NO 17, or an amino acid sequence of at least about 15 contiguous amino acids derived therefrom.

47. The purified polynucleotide of claim 38, wherein said polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence presented as SEQUENCE ID NO 17, or an amino acid sequence of at least about 20 contiguous amino acids derived therefrom.

48. The test kit polynucleotide of claim 10, wherein said test kit polynucleotide comprises at least about 10 nucleotides.

49. The test kit polynucleotide of claim 10, wherein said test kit polynucleotide comprises at least about 12 nucleotides.

50. The test kit polynucleotide of claim 10, wherein said test kit polynucleotide comprises at least about 15 nucleotides.

51. The test kit polynucleotide of claim 10, wherein said test kit polynucleotide comprises at least about 20 nucleotides.

52. The purified polynucleotide of claim 11, wherein said polynucleotide comprises at least about 10 nucleotides.

53. The purified polynucleotide of claim 11, wherein said polynucleotide comprises at least about 12 nucleotides.

54. The purified polynucleotide of claim 11, wherein said polynucleotide comprises at least about 15 nucleotides.